8: Senfft--283 (1905) 1906 Woleaians
116, 273, 625, 681 Woleai

The coconut stocks on Oleei were normal. Two years ago extermination measures were taken against the rat plague and by now the trouble has decreased considerably. Since the recall of the police post who was in charge of enforcing these measures nothing had been done and the natives had started once more to drink sour toddy. In a condition of complete drunkenness a native had first threatened a dealer with a long knife and then with a spear. The man was taken to Jap and later sentenced on that island. A rumor circulated that three years ago an Australian dealer, who was old and feeble and who had been working on Oleei for a Jap firm, had died an unnatural death. I started extensive investigations on the spot which really produced incriminating material. It seems that a Sonsol native attacked the dealer in his bed, made him unconscious by blows of a hammer and then strangled him. It is said that the housekeeper of the dealer --a fellow islander of the murderer--had been an accomplice to the crime. Other witnesses are said to exist on the islands of Lamutrik and Satuwal. The main witnesses needed for the trial had to be called and set out on the voyage. At the present time the two accused are on Palau.

In a general meeting I discussed everything of importance and informed the population that once more I would leave behind a policeman with far-reaching powers. Fines in the form of naturalia were imposed for neglect of the tree protection law directed against destruction by rats and for the consumption of sour toddy.

.8: Senfft--283 (1905) 1906 Woleaians
116, 245, 273 Lamotrek

Here [MR: Lamotrek] again I had occasion to observe that previously given orders for the protection of the palm trees and the prohibition of consumption of sour toddy had in several instances gone unheeded; it is indeed a sad fact that as far as drinking is concerned the white dealer serves as a very poor model to the natives. A walk through the island revealed the occurrence of cochineal insects on four palm trees; the trees were cleaned and in future the chief will be responsible for the burning of the leaves attacked by the insects.

8: Senfft--284 (1905) 1906 Woleaians
116, 101, 175, 133, 136 Gaferut

This island [MR: Grimes] is known to the natives by the name of "Gaferut," but they have never visited it. They call it the "devil's island" and are afraid to come near it. Yet they were unable to explain their fear for not even any member of the crew of the ship had seen it. We reached the island on December 5 after dark and could not find any anchor ground. The captain sent some of his men on land who during the night were to maintain a fire in order that the ship could stay close to the land. At dawn I rowed ashore. The map of the Admiralty characterizes Grimes as an elevated island, but in reality it is a flat sandbank which in some places rises up to an elevation of 2 meters. The only type of vegetation is a species of mangrove. Apparently a strong storm hit the island a few months ago for most of the trees had lost their branches and many---including the strongest---had been completely uprooted. The fauna consists of innumerable sea birds, which had their loose nests either in the trees or on the level ground; furthermore there were coconut crabs and--to judge from the traces--large turtles, which do not visit the island but at night. The birds were so tame that they could be seized by hand. Gaferut, including the reef, has a length of about 1300 meters; exclusive of the reef it is 600 paces long and 300 paces wide. We could not find anchor ground during the day either.